An Account of the Creation of the Dog.

By W. G. Maxwell.

I heard this story from Pa' Senik, an old Kelantan Malay now resident near Batu Gajah in Perak. He was giving an account of the creation of the first man according to the Muhammadan tradition, which may be found in Sale's Notes to his translation of the Koran and in D'Herbelot's article "Adam" in his Bibliothèque Orientale; and the account of the creation of the dog was a mere parenthesis in his story—It is new to me, and appears to be a Malay accretion to the Arabic myth.

When Azrael had torn out the heart of the Earth and had fashioned it into the form of man, he left the moulded figure, which was still without life, on Bukit Zabaniah.

It lay there face upwards exposed to all the elements. Iblis passed that way and saw it, and, from malice, voided his excrement on its chest.

When Azrael returned he flung the excrement away, and it immediately took the form of a dog.

The creation of the dog in this manner has had effect in two ways. In the first place, the dog, though an unclean animal may be bought and sold by Muhammadans, whereas the purchase money of all other unclean animals carries the taint of the unclean. In the second place, the Dog, however badly treated and however often thrashed, will always return to man.